MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
26 July, 1977

AM
10:00 *CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.*

ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: 27 September, 1977
25 October, 1977

B. Minutes of June 1977 meeting.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 77-153, 1023 31st Street, N.W., Rehabilitation of Existing Structure and Alteration for Restaurant Use.

2. OG 77-158, 3616 N Street, N.W., New Single-Family Dwelling - Resubmission.

3. OG 77-160, 1049 30th Street, N.W., Hotel, Apartment/ Office Complex - Resubmission.

4. OG 77-165, 1101 30th Street, N.W., Apartment Building - Resubmission.

5. Appendix 1.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 77-95, 4001-17 16th Street, N.W., New Townhouses.

2. Appendix 2.

B. D.C. Department of Housing & Community Development

Historic Subdivisions

Appendix 3.

C. Committee for a National Museum of the Building Arts

National Museum of the Building Arts.

D. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

Western Sector Design and Development Guidelines.

E. Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Defense Intelligence Agency Complex, Bolling/Anacostia Tract.

F. Federal Reserve System

Temporary Installation of Bed by Seymour Lipton, Podium Level, Martin Building.

G. Smithsonian Institution

East Entrance Garden, Smithsonian Institution Building - Resubmission.

H. General Services Administration

Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover Building, Courtyard Inscriptions.

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 77-116	1210-14 35th Street, N.W. Nivan, Inc.	Construction of three row houses (resubmission refer to OG 77-86).

ACTION: Do not issue permit. No objection to preliminary design. Request working drawings and material samples for review and approval by Fine Arts Commission prior to issuance of permit. 7/6/77

120	3250 Grace Street, N.W. Holland and Lyons	Construct new townhouse structures and remodel existing buildings (resubmission refer to OG 77-62).

ACTION: Issue permit. Submit material samples, landscaping plans, and air conditioning unit screen designs as developed. 7/12/77

131	1101 30th Street, N.W. JBG Associates	Construct apartment building (resubmission refer to OG 77-109).

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Recommend further study of north elevation, particularly that part of facade on west end toward 30th Street. Suggest same kind of "softening" of mass and profile as introduced on northeast corner of building. Revised designs for this area are approved. 7/6/77

133	1049 30th Street, N.W. Morrison Corporation	New office/apartment building, hotel, and house (resubmission refer to OG 77-8).

ACTION: Design development drawings of apartment/office building approved subject to submission and approval of working drawings. Window and molding details of inn building approved. Recommend additional study of doorway to inn. Gatehouse design not recommended. Suggest restudy to more closely conform to streetscape and typical Georgetown planes, proportions, and details. This does not imply that gatehouse should be designed in explicit traditional style. 7/6/77

134	1218 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Georgetown Holding	Hang painting on side of building facing empty lot.

ACTION: Do not issue. Proposed painting is out of character with historic context and is inappropriate for use within the Georgetown area. 7/6/77

136	3616 N Street, N.W. Dr. John F. Bresette	New single-family row house (resubmission refer to OG 77-119).

ACTION: Do not issue permit. The houses in the neighborhood are for the most part simple and straightforward buildings. They can be enhanced by new construction which exhibits some of the same modest and understated characteristics. There is not objection to design of the rear elevation. Recommend restudy of street elevation with more traditional facade elements. This should not imply direct application of any particular period or style but should suggest a simgle material, either brick or clapboard, and a flat-planed facade with conventional openings and less emphasis on plant material as an architectural element. 7/6/77

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

26 July, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 77-137	1637 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Aurelio Antonio DeFranco	Cut-out aluminum (natural finish) letters.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 7/12/77	
141	3508 Prospect Street, N.W. David Shapiro	Erect brick wall, wood fence, and two gates and one pedestrian door.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend retention of existing stone wall and iron fence on east side of house facing Prospect Street. Brick wall on west should relate to water table. Wood fence design approved for east side of property adjoining 35th Street. Existing rustic stone wall and osage orange trees near top of wall to be preserved. 7/12/77	
142	3616 N Street, N.W. Dr. John F. Bresette	New single-family house (resubmission refer to OG 77-136).
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend further study of north elevation facing N Street. Massing of schemes #3 and #4 acceptable. Recommend careful study of window and door openings, their proportions, and resulting scale relationship to facade. 7/12/77	
143	1024 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Cherry Hill Associates	12-unit addition to existing 20-unit apartment building (resubmission refer to OG 77-7).
ACTION:	Issue permit. Submit material and landscaping schemes as developed. 7/12/77	
144	3299 M Street, N.W. Peter Ball	Flat oak sign to be attached flat against masonry with anchor bolts.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Both signs are oversized, do not relate well to facade, are awkwardly proportioned, and out of character with architecture of building. Recommend a single sign not to exceed 25 square feet, mounted over door on M Street facade. Suggest conference with Commission staff for informal review of revised design prior to resubmitting permit application. 7/12/77	
145	3414 N Street, N.W. Christopher & Lois Bird	Enclose existing deck to create sum room at rear of house.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 7/12/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

26 July, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 77-146	3328 M Street, N.W. Marciano Cabellos & Consuelo Boger	Projecting sign (resubmission refer to OG 77-128).
ACTION:	Issue permit for Scheme A. Recommend exception for projecting sign which is appropriate to this particular building in the historic district. 7/21/77	
147	3051 Q Street, N.W. George Stevens	Fenestration changes.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 7/12/77	
149	3316 P Street, N.W. Richard Bernstein	Conversion of existing carpet warehouse/factory to residence (resubmission refer to OG 77-132).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 7/21/77	
150	3261 K Street, N.W. Washington Flour Company	Install 24 square foot painted wooden sign.
ACTION:	Issue permit for temporary construction sign. 7/21/77	
151	1509 28th Street, N.W. F. Mark Wyatt	Renovate front facade: restucco, add window, light boxes, door grille, etc. (resubmission refer to OG 77-92).
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Recommend elimination of box devices attached to facade above windows, facade illumination, and projecting hood on top floor front, and small planters on front railing. No objection to treatment of front door. Design proposals thus far such as the addition of ornamental devices on the facade of this house, have not improved its quality or compatibility with historic district. 7/21/77	
152	1058 Thomas Jefferson Street, N.W. Thomas Carroll	Install two hanging wood unlighted signs and banking machine.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 7/21/77	
154	3217 P Street, N.W. Mr. Jack Neam	Renovation of street facade, change windows on side, general clean up and repair, new awning, new windows, new doors, etc. (resubmission refer to OG 77-106).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 7/21/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

26 July, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 77-155	1611 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Randolph W. Reed, Jr.	New retail store with apartments above.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Recommend restudy of facades facing Wisconsin Avenue and south. First floor windows facing Wisconsin Avenue appear to be small and out of scale with remainder of building. Number of facade elements facing south to rear is not recommended. Change of materials to simulate row of buildings not recommended. Suggest simpler technique. Suggest conference with architect. 7/21/77

157	3062 Q Street, N.W. Mrs. Lee A. Carty	Replace existing steps with brick.

ACTION: Issue permit. 7/21/77

159	3343 P Street, N.W. Wiley T. Buchanan, III	Remove old wood sliding garage door and replace with overhead door (resubmission refer to OG 77-130).

ACTION: Issue permit. 7/21/77

161	1063 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Harald Giesinger, et al.	Alteration of existing commercial retail store for restaurant use; exterior fenestration of south facade to be altered to combine windows of first and ground floors; add elevator and mechanical penthouse above roof.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Preliminary approval of all details except facade facing Canal which should have additional study. Study revisions in fenestration including muntins and structural supports for large bay windows and for other factory sash so that there is a uniformity of design. 7/21/77

162	3407 R Street, N.W. Elmer Klavans	Front and rear three-story additions and internal alterations.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Recommend against front addition which would break facade line of existing harmonious row. Stylistic departure as well as projecting bay makes this proposal out of character with historic Georgetown district. 7/21/77

26 July, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
SL 77-71	2601-11 Klingle Road, N.W. Jan Cammermeyer	Six single-family detached dwellings.

ACTION: No objection to preliminary design. Request submission of material samples and finished working drawings, including detailed site and landscaping plans, prior to issuance of permit. 7/6/77

78	1415-19 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Virginia Hotel Limited Partnership	Install individual parking lifts on roof of parking garage.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Proposal is out of keeping with this prominent location. Proposed structure must not be visible from Pennsylvania Avenue. Recommend relocation or adequate screen design which would require submission of drawings for review and approval of this Commission. 7/6/77

81	13th & E Streets, N.W. Quadrangle Development Corporation	12-story office building with retail and underground parking.

ACTION: Preliminary design approved. Request submission of working drawings and material samples for review prior to issuance of building permit. 7/6/77

82	5196 27th Street, N.W. Covell Builders	Two new single-family houses (resubmission refer to SL 77-5).

ACTION: Preliminary design approved. Request submission of working drawings, landscape drawings, and material samples for review prior to issuance of building permit. Recommend screening of under-house space where applicable with appropriate lattice. 7/6/77

88	453 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. 453 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Assoc.	New building per plans (resubmission refer to SL 77-23).

ACTION: Issue permit. Submit material samples for review when selected. Also recommend diminishing size of canopy over central doorway to clear bottom of second floor sill and have a much shallower lip above doorway. 7/6/77

89	1954 Calvert Street, N.W. Lester Goldberg, Arthur Horwitz	Remodel interior to become one bedroom dwelling, change front.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Existing projecting show window is a non-conforming use of public space. Replacement of existing glass with brick wall and new openings is a structural alteration and is disapproved. Recommend removal of projecting structure and replacement with suitably designed alteration, compatible with materials and design of remaining elements on the facade. 7/18/77

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

26 July, 1977

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 77-90	223 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E. Stuart J. Long	Replace glass door to second floor with wood door identical to first floor doors.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 7/18/77	
91	1897½ Ingleside Terrace, N.W. David Sidewater	Install fireplace and extend chimney.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 7/18/77	
92	805 15th Street, N.W. D.C. Government	Rental of public space for parking.
ACTION:	Do not issue permit. Parking motor vehicles in downtown public sidewalk not recommended. No objection to flower stand. Applications such as this should include photographs. 7/18/77	
94	1651 Newton Street, N.W. Not given	Built wood deck at rear of existing dwelling.
ACTION:	Issue permit. No objection to general design. Recommend checking details of design with dimensions of lumber indicated on drawing, especially treads and risers of stairs. 7/18/77	
96	825 15th Street, N.W. National Bank of Washington	Two single-faced lease signs, 4' x 6'.
ACTION:	Issue permit. No objection to temporary lease sign. 7/18/77	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON HISTORIC SUBDIVISION APPLICATIONS

26 July, 1977

NO.	SQUARE, LOT, ADDRESS AND OWNER	DESCRIPTION
HS 77-40	Square 1187, Lot 83 3255-59 K Street, N.W. District of Columbia Papermills, Inc.	Conversion of Assessment and Taxation Lot 808 into a record lot to allow for new commercial/residential complex.
ACTION:	No objection. 7/22/77	
44	Square 457, Lot 809 633 D Street, N.W. Anthony A. Perez	Conversion of Assessment and Taxation Lot 809 into a record lot to allow for rear addition.
ACTION:	No objection to subdivision. Suggest that District Government coordinate this proposed addition with the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. 6/29/77	
49	Square 1271, Lot 823 1534 32nd Street, N.W. Laurence W. Hauswan, Helen E. Soos	Conversion of Assessment and Taxation Lot 823 into a record lot.
ACTION:	No objection. 7/22/77	

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
26 July, 1977

The meeting convened in the offices of the Commission of Fine Arts at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C., at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present:	*Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman*
	Hon. Philip W. Buchen
	Hon. Victorine du Pont Homsey
	Hon. Eli S. Jacobs
	Hon. Frederick D. Nichols
	Hon. Kevin Roche
	Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.
Staff Present:	*Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary*
	Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
	Miss Lynda L. Brown
	Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
	Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.
	Mrs. Sue A. Kohler
	Miss Nancy H. Noyes

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of the next meetings were set at August 23, September 27, and October 25, 1977. The Secretary said that no projects had been officially scheduled for the August meeting thus far. Several members indicated that they would not be able to attend an August meeting. The Chairman asked that the meeting be pencilled in and cancelled or changed later if submissions or quorums so demanded.

B. Minutes of the June 1977 meeting were approved.

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. D.C. Department of Economic Development

Old Georgetown Act

1. OG 77-165, 1101 30th Street, N.W., Apartment Building - Resubmission. The Secretary said that the architect for this project, Mr. Arthur Cotton Moore, had requested an early hearing; the Chairman took the case first. The Secretary reviewed the Commission's previous discussion of this new apartment building proposed for the Georgetown Waterfront. He reminded the members that they had asked for height reduction and a model including context and adjacent projects. Mr. Moore showed the Commission two models demonstrating his efforts to reduce the visual height of the building by partially chamfering the

top floor and creating roof-like slant-backs. The Commission examined the models as well as Mr. Moore's photographs and concluded that the project should be further reduced in height. The Chairman and Mr. Roche said that they believed the building would be overly visible as a presence in the middle of the block and were particularly concerned by the view on entering Georgetown from the left, and on coming south down the slope of 30th Street towards M. Mr. Jacobs, the project's developer, said the project was already below the allowable square footage on the site and that further reduction would mean economic infeasibility. Mr. Deming, of the Citizens Association of Georgetown, said his group recommended that in general building heights south of M Street reflect the natural fall of the land down toward the Potomac River. After further discussion as to actual visibility points throughout Georgetown, the Commission agreed to make a site inspection later in the day.

2. OG 77-153, 1023 31st Street, N.W., Rehabilitation of Existing Structure and Alteration for Restaurant Use. The Assistant Secretary showed a series of photographs and drawings for the adaptive reuse of a garage structure as a restaurant. The project contemplated an addition to the front of an existing building. The site on lower 31st Street flanked several small row houses and was surrounded with industrial/parking uses. The restaurant owner proposed a Greek island type of white stucco "look" with numerous courtyards and two-story spaces inside. The Georgetown Board had found the design good, but not suitable to Georgetown. They found it overly horizontal and the material and some details without precedent in the historic district. Restudy had resulted in a brick scheme with some change in massing to avoid the original scheme's horizontality. Since no project representative was present, the Commission recommended additional study with segmental, rather than semi-circular, arches, and additional restraint. They recommended that additional study be limited to brick.

3. OG 77-158, 3616 N Street, N.W., New Single-Family Dwelling - Resubmission. The Secretary reviewed new designs and previous schemes for this proposed new dwelling near Georgetown University. He showed earlier schemes which had a mixture of brick and clapboard on the street facade. He also showed a revised "preferred" scheme with a double brick facade with a scale-giving offset half-way across the front. The Georgetown Board had reviewed and recommended this scheme. The Commission told Mr. Wiebenson, the architect, that this was a good scheme for further design development.

4. OG 77-160, 1049 30th Street, N.W., Hotel/Apartment/Office Complex - Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary told of the Commission and the Board recommending additional study of the "gate house", or owner's house, for this mixed-use project. He indicated that there had been a scale problem, which it seems had been caused by an error in measuring adjacent townhouses to the south. Mr. Peter

Vercelli, the architect, had met with the Board, which had suggested additional refinement on the design, including an accurate rendition showing a similarity in scale between the existing and proposed houses. The Board had not been able to take an action on the redesign. The Commission examined the new drawings, finding the proposed house of such an unusual geometry that it was incompatible with the block. Mr. Roche stated that he had defended the original design intent to blend an 18th century inn with a completely contemporary large building, but could not condone the inharmony of the proposed gate house with the rest of the block frontage. Mr. Morrison, the developer, indicated that there were program requirements which were inflexible on the site. Mr. Roche said that he was sure a number of solutions to the design could be available. The Chairman said that with a designer of Mr. Vercelli's talent, the Commission could look forward to an excellent additional solution or two. The design was unanimously rejected.

5. Appendix 1, approved.

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 77-95, 4001-17 16th Street, N.W., New Townhouses. The Assistant Secretary presented a number of drawings and two photographs of a proposed project to build a row of traditionally-styled townhouses. The site faced 16th Street and was near the Arkansas Avenue entrance of Rock Creek Park. The proposed houses were similar to the type and scale of houses in the vicinity and would not be visible from the park. The Commission examined the drawings and asked the developer, Mr. Bonnett, if he objected to slightly simplifying the variety of houses. He said he would be glad to. Mr. Nichols suggested that the brick and shingles of all the houses be the same material. Mr. Stone said that the plan off-sets would leave more than enough variety. The Commission suggested that a number of units be eliminated, and Mr. Nichols further suggested that several over-fancy doorway entablatures be eliminated as well. The Commission gave a unanimous preliminary approval, pending the design modifications requested.

2. Appendix 2, approved.

B. D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development

Historic Subdivisions

Appendix 3, approved.

C. Committee for a National Museum of the Building Arts

The Secretary introduced Dr. Cynthia Field, President of the Committee for a National Museum of the Building Arts. She briefly indicated that the Committee was a private group of individuals seeking

support for a national museum dealing with the history of the built environment, including architecture and planning. She then introduced Mr. Wolf Von Eckardt, the Washington Post architectural critic, who was taking a year away from his post to help as consultant to the museum project. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Von Eckardt, who described the museum project and the Committee's desire to have the museum located in the old Pension Building. He described the building as one of the grandest interiors in the city. Designed in the 19th century by Montgomery Meigs, the building had a varied history, including inaugural balls, and recently housing the D.C. Court System. Within a year or two as the nearby new court building would be readied, Mr. Von Eckardt said that the building could be available, and perfect for the museum. He hoped that the grand central space could house temporary exhibits and serve for large occasional functions. The multi-floor perimeter office space could be used for exhibits and library functions tied in with trades, products, manufactures, the Library of Congress, references to the built environment, etc. These he hoped could be computerized to offer information not now organized.

The members stated their enthusiasm for the idea and asked how the project was progressing. Mr. Von Eckardt indicated that the Committee had been unable to get overt support from the Smithsonian. He stated that the timing was politically unfortunate for the Smithsonian to seek additional funds or programs. The Committee had also asked that the General Services Administration consider support of the museum as a parent organization. The GSA, having the National Archives as one of its branches, would be a logical promoter. GSA had declined to offer this support. Mr. Von Eckardt said that he was looking for endorsement and support so that legislation, and the necessary backing, could be found, and found soon. The Commission asked that copies of the draft report be sent to the members. The Chairman thanked Mr. Von Eckardt for his presentation. No action was required.

D. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation

Western Sector Design and Development Guidelines. The Secretary told the members that copies of the Western Sector Guidelines had been sent them with a brief staff analysis. The guidelines were to provide a design framework for a yet-to-be-hired consultant to design the public space between 13th and 15th Streets adjacent to Pennsylvania Avenue. He stated that most features of the document had previously been reviewed and approved by the Commission. Mr. Woodbridge, Director of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, showed the members a drawing indicating that there were various principles involved with a Western Plaza, retaining the existing Square 226 and eliminating various bottlenecks and traffic problems in the vicinity. These he stated had come from previous interchange between the Corporation and the Commission of Fine Arts.

Mr. Stone recommended that undue constraints be avoided if a designer was to do the best job. He also stated his hope that the Commission of Fine Arts get involved in the design early. Mr. Woodbridge concurred. The Commission unanimously approved the Western Sector Guidelines approach to a final design. EXHIBIT A

E. Department of the Navy, Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Defense Intelligence Agency Complex, Bolling/Anacostia. The Assistant Secretary introduced Mr. Lose, a Navy representative, and Mr. Diamond, a consultant architect, while indicating that the proposed large office/laboratory/training facility departed somewhat from the master plan for the post. Originally on a site programmed for higher density use where a much larger complex had been designed and dubbed "Mini-Pentagon", the proposed complex had several linked buildings served by a multi-deck parking garage. Sheathed in an aircraft-type bright satin metal skin, the highest element of the group reached one hundred feet. This the Assistant Secretary pointed out was almost on axis with South Capitol Street, and, as the Chairman noted, was directly across the Potomac River from National Airport and the parkway approach drive from it to the city.

Mr. Lose said that the plan changes had been approved by the National Capital Planning Commission and were consistent with the present approved type of development recommended by Congress. He then introduced Mr. Diamond who gave a slide, drawing, and model presentation of the proposed design. He described the multiple functions of the complex, the security requirements, and the traffic-transportation needs. He also described the design approach and the type of materials and landscape matter being proposed.

The Chairman voiced the Commission's concern with the height and character of the complex since it was proposed for one of the most visible and important sites in the Capital area. General comments on the propriety of leaving the approved palette of materials on the post to use the metal skin were pointed out. Mr. Stone asked if the other members found the departure from Washington's traditional masonry building surface disturbing. There was general concurrence on the questions of height and material. Mr. Roche added that the complex was geometrically casual and had no architectural nor functional rationale. He stated that it simply was not good enough architecture. After more discussion with the project representatives, the Commission unanimously disapproved the design, recommending a new design start. Mr. Buchen was recorded as abstaining from the discussion and vote.
EXHIBIT B

F. Federal Reserve System

Temporary Installation of Bed by Seymour Lipton, Podium Level,

Martin Building. The Secretary passed photographs of the sculpture and sketch site plan around while introducing Ms. Mary Anne Goley from the Federal Reserve Staff. The Chairman welcomed Ms. Goley and the members examined and unanimously approved the proposal.

EXHIBIT C

G. Smithsonian Institution

East Entrance Garden, Smithsonian Building - Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary presented a drawing showing existing conditions between the Castle and the Arts and Industries Building, as well as a design approved by the Commission in June. He explained that in review by the National Capital Planning Commission the design had been restudied to change existing conditions less. The Commission examined the drawings, finding neither the existing nor the revised designs as good as the approved design. There were no project representatives present to discuss the proposals. The Commission unanimously disapproved the modified design and reiterated its request that the Smithsonian submit an overall landscape plan for the vicinity of the Castle.

EXHIBIT D

H. General Services Administration

Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover Building, Courtyard Inscription. The Secretary introduced Mr. Bucky Walters, a representative of the Society of Former Special Agents, who were promoting a courtyard inscription and medallion of J. Edgar Hoover and would be proposing a major piece of sculpture for the same courtyard. The Commission examined proposed lettering style and spacing as well as the likeness of Mr. Hoover. One comment was that there were signatures of Mr. Hoover both inside and outside the medallion. It was agreed that the one in the medallion should be eliminated, and that the name should be moved nearer the quotation, to indicate its authorship. The Commission unanimously approved the project and stated its interest in reviewing sculpture designs as ready.

EXHIBIT E

III. INSPECTION

OG 77-165, 1101 30th Street, N.W., Apartment Building - Resubmission. All members of the Commission with the Secretary and Assistant Secretary went to Georgetown to examine the site and vantage points for the apartment project discussed earlier in the day. The Commission determined that the proposed project would be more visible than they deemed appropriate to the maintenance of the small scale of the historic district. Their unanimous disapproval of the design included a recommendation to restudy the top floor of the west wing with the removal of the north half and creation of a planted terrace there to soften the impact of the silhouette and bulk.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

EXHIBITION A

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, NW
WASHINGTON

1 June, 1977

Memo to: Members, Commission of Fine Arts
From: Charles H. Atherton, Secretary
Subject: Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Western Sector Design Guidelines

The Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation sent the enclosed "Western Sector Design Guidelines" for your comments. It will be turned over to a variety of PADC consultants involved in designing public spaces between 13th Street and 15th Street along Pennsylvania Avenue. These guidelines are consistent with past Commission of Fine Arts policy and comment. The addition of a Western Plaza between 13th and 14th Streets versus the previous scheme of a National Square between 14th and 15th Streets was instigated by the Commission over the last several years. Treating the Western Plaza area as a grand civic design eliminates the present numerous triangular traffic islands. This makes possible a soft green transitional treatment of the old National Square site between 14th and 15th Streets and is more consistent with the Sherman Memorial, the Ellipse, and the White House grounds. Thus we gain a design opportunity for maximizing the axial connection between the terraced Treasury facade and the terraced Capitol Building while allowing a number of landscape events to give interest at grade level. PADC may be moving in the direction of creating more ground level events than the Commission had previously endorsed; however, present effort is to establish a design framework with some flexibility. As designs are developed, the Commission will be reviewing them in some detail.

The guidelines are consistent with the overall PADC plan and philosophy approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. This relies on axiality developed with paving, lighting, and some new diagonal construction. The scheme also blends historic and new structures as a part of the plan with the careful reutilization of existing monumental elements. The Commission has backed this balance between historic continuity, modern function, pedestrian scale, and the handling of substantial volumes of traffic in a monumental plan. Though we will have an opportunity to examine this document at our June 28th meeting, we thought an advance look would be helpful.

Send to Members
5/24/77

WESTERN SECTOR DESIGN GUIDELINES

I. INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The design of Pennsylvania Avenue and its related areas as it approaches the White House is the most challenging and difficult of all the open-space design problems in the Pennsylvania Avenue Development area. Ever since the actual design of the White House and its grounds failed to fulfill L'Enfant's vision of having the building terminate the westward vista, there has been a problem of focus at this end of the Avenue. What the plan and aerial view clearly show is not evident on the ground, and this is further confused by the partial projection of the Treasury into the vista and the maze of traffic that fills much of the western open space today. Any successful design of this space must resolve a number of potentially conflicting demands.

First there is the expression of the monumental grand axis as against the attractiveness of open space for pedestrian use. Perhaps close to 100,000 people move up and down the Avenue every day in cars and buses, many more than use it as pedestrians, or will use it even when the plan is complete. The person in car or bus needs openness, simple organization of space and clear visibility. But any open space design that does not consider the plight of the pedestrian in Washington's long hot summers is not going to do much to bring life back to Pennsylvania Avenue. Therefore, there must be a hierarchy of scale that preserves the

big vistas and automobile scale longitudinally, but introduces a pedestrian scale and interest transversely. Of course, there will be places in the Western Sector area where these two overlap, particularly where the pedestrian can and should experience the grand vista and scale.

Second, there are linkages that must be recognized and reinforced between the shopping spine of downtown to the north, the Federal employment center to the south and the hordes of tourists visiting the White House on the west. The Western Sector is where these three major elements of Washington life, business, government and tourism, come closest together, without any present recognition or encouragement in the design of the open space.

Finally, there is a transition to be made from the formal, axial shaft of the Avenue and the informal green park of the White House Grounds and the Ellipse.

For all these reasons we have divided the Western Sector into two zones, east and west of 14th Streets. The first, west of 14th Street, is the transitional link from the Avenue and the city to the President's Park. The second, east of 14th is where the building-and-tree-lined portion of the Avenue ends in a rectangular space angled at 20 degress from the avenue axis, giving the opportunity for a major focal point in the axial vista.

II. DESIGN OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

A. West of 14th Street

The area between 14th Street and East Executive, Pennsylvania Avenue and E Street is to be designed as an extension of the White House Grounds - Ellipse park landscape into the downtown area. The western portion of this area will remain substantially as it is, but the eastern part should be a transition in scale and character from the park landscape to the plaza and Avenue to the east and should provide an edge for that open space. Because it is surrounded by office buildings, hotels and shops, it should provide opportunities for strolling, sitting, picnicking, and so on. It must provide a suitable setting for the American Expeditionary Force/Pershing Memorial, which is being designed by Wallace K. Harrison as consultant to the Battle Monuments Commission. Specific guidelines are as follows:

1. Treasury Terrace: A connection from East Executive Drive across the Treasury south terrace to 15th Street should be considered to take advantage of the great axial view down the Avenue from the terrace. Consideration has been given in the past to placing a White House Visitors' Center under an extended Treasury terrace. While the Consultant should not make his design in any way dependent on such a concept, he should consider it as a future possibility.

2. Sherman Monument: The Sherman Monument grounds are to remain substantially as they are, except that widening E Street on the south side will necessitate regrading the southern slope of the mound on which the monument sits. A more direct connection between the monument and the Treasury terrace to the north may be considered.

3. Square 226: The landscape design of square 226 (14th - 15th, Pennsylvania Avenue - E Street) should serve as a transition between the Sherman monument grounds to the west and the Western Plaza to the east, relating in grass and tree cover to the Sherman Monument, but providing paved areas for more intensive pedestrian use and circulation diagonally through the space, especially from northeast to southwest, possibly focusing on the Willard Hotel.

4. 14th Street Edge of Square 226: At the eastern edge of this space along 14th Street, a strong edge of planting should define Western Plaza. Advantage may be taken of the grade change of approximately six feet from northwest to southeast on the block to help define the 14th Street edge and to provide raised parade-viewing areas along E Street. Particular consideration should be given to areas which would be suitable for the handicapped.

5. Pennsylvania Avenue between 14th Street and 15th Street: The roadway of Pennsylvania Avenue is to be narrowed to three lanes on the centerline, giving a much wider sidewalk

on the north side and a unique opportunity for pedestrians to stroll down virtually on the Avenue axis toward the Capitol. The vista westward toward the Treasury through this area should be kept open so that the Avenue axis is legible for its entire length.

6. American Expeditionary Force/Pershing Memorial: This monument was sited in square 226 by Act of Congress. Its design must be approved by PADC and the Commission of Fine Arts. Throughout the development of the design, the architect has worked closely with both agencies, and is now approaching a final scheme which must be incorporated into the design of this area, although its location and the shape and placing of some elements are still flexible. The scheme consists of a slightly more than life-size statute of General John J. Pershing standing on a pedestal in a small reflecting pool, a paved surround and a wall approximately 10 feet high by 20 long carrying inscriptions and a map of the AEF campaign of World War I. It has been assumed that the monument would go in the southeasterly part of square 226 on a terrace overlooking 14th Street and Western Plaza.

B. East of 14th Street

The rectangular space between 13th, 14th and what are presently the two alignments of E Street on the north and south, was to be a plaza in Ellicot's redrafting of L'Enfant's plan. Since the advent of the automobile it has been progressively carved up to the point where it is now largely paved with asphalt, dotted with traffic islands and small bits of landscaping. The The reconstruction of this area will create a rectangular, traffic-free pedestrian space surrounded by streets. Its design presents extraordinary challenges and opportunities. Since the visual axis of Pennsylvania Avenue passes diagonally through it, the space must be kept substantially open in order not to block the vista. On the other hand there is the opportunity to provide a visual focus in the space that will serve as a goal to westward-moving vehicles on the Avenue. If the space is too open it will become unusable in Washington's fierce summer heat and uninviting at any time. A balance must be struck between monumental and intimate, between open space and shade, between the axial vista and a sense of arrival.

Specific Guidelines are as follows:

1. Pennsylvania Avenue Axis

The vista in both directions must be respected so that someone coming west up the Avenue can see the Treasury portico and someone on the Treasury terrace can see the Capitol dome and the Avenue framing it. This does not mean there can be nothing in

the center of the space, because the Treasury and its terrace are substantially higher than Western Plaza, as of course is the Capitol.

2. A Visual Terminus for the Avenue

Pennsylvania Avenue today lacks a clear focus as it approaches the White House. Because, under the new design, traffic will turn westward at 13th Street, Western Plaza should provide a visual focus and termination for the diagonal axis. A fountain has always been indicated as a dominant feature in the plaza, providing visual and aural excitement to give a sense of arrival. This water element could be interpreted as a single element or a series in composition with other sculptural or architectural features. The north-south axis through the center of the plaza can also provide a visual link with the Grand Plaza of the Federal Triangle to the south.

3. The District Building

The new western plaza will be the forecourt to the District Building, and so becomes in effect City Hall Square. Without any provision for them, many civic demonstrations take place there today. The design of the new open space should provide for such gatherings as well as for the possible closing of south E Street to traffic during them.

4. Existing Monuments

Three monuments are presently in the area and should be part of the final composition. The equestrian statue of General Casimir Pulaski should remain at or close to its present location. The statute of Alexander Shepherd should be placed in relation to the District Building, since he was a notable Commissioner of the District. The Liberty Bell replica can serve as a minor focal point anywhere in the area.

5. The North Side

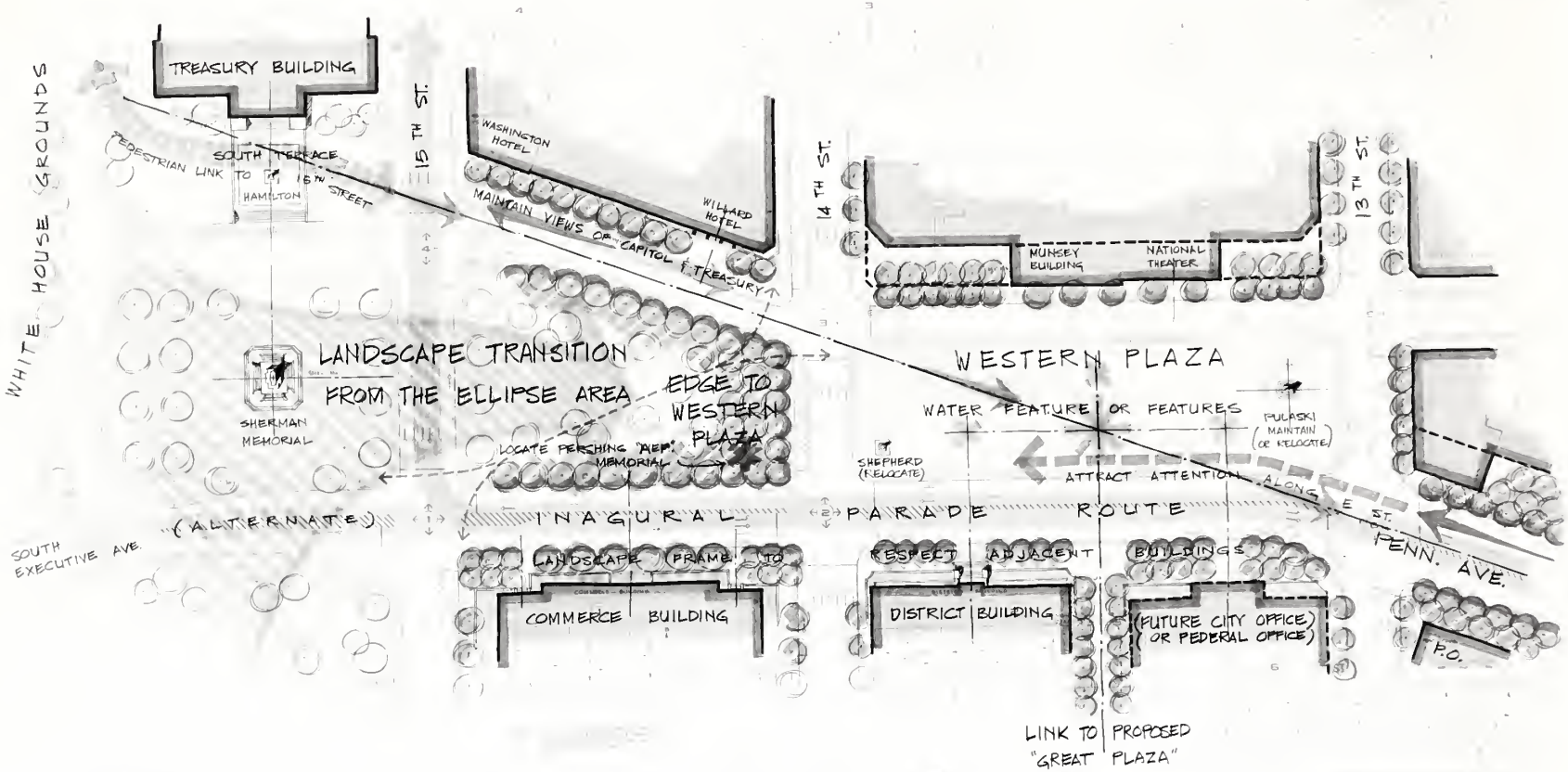
Because of its proximity to F Street, the north side of Western Plaza ia a likely place for retail activity. It presently houses the National Theater, one of downtown's most important evening activity generators and a major cultural resource. While the present theater may not survive redevelopment, it is hoped that new theatrical and nightime activity can be encouraged on this block. The design of the north sidewalk should take this into account.

6. Pedestrian Activity and Linkages

There will be heavy north-south pedestrian movement at 13th and 14th Streets, particularly at rush hours. A mid-block crossing is possible on the north side. Thus, even though it is surrounded by streets, Western Plaza can be quite heavily used by pedestrians. Its size and location dictate that it should not be treated as an intimate introverted park, but as a great open space where one can see and feel the grandeur of Washington. However, since the ends of the plaza are not in the vista axis, they could provide tree areas linking the tree-lined north and south sidewalks and giving an opportunity for smaller-scale pedestrian amenities.

7. Parade Viewing

The change in grade of 3 - 4 feet from north to south gives an opportunity for parade review steps, walls, etc., along the south side of Western Plaza, or alternatively a series of levels across the space which would enhance the visibility of the parade at this key point along its path.



DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR WESTERN SECTOR

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

MAY 24, 1977

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

9 August, 1977

Dear Commander Goins:

I would like to submit the following report to you on the proposed new Defense Intelligence Agency Building at Anacostia/ Bolling that was reviewed at our meeting on July 26, 1977.

After a careful study of the designs, the Commission has concluded they are not acceptable. The Commission had several objections, but I would say that more important than any of several specific design questions that arose during the discussion there was the prevalent feeling the solution was simply not responsive enough to the very special demands of the site or the program. I know criticism of this sort may sound too general, but in this case we believe it aptly fits the conditions. The site is in an especially beautiful location, and the building is to serve a unique and important government function. In our opinion the architecture simply does not rise to the occasion.

Let me try to be more precise about some of the areas where we feel the design is unsuccessful.

First, the composition lacked a convincing sense of organization. The massing appears arbitrary, and this in turn presents a complex silhouette, a quality which certainly can be questioned with respect to the building's axial relationship to the Capitol.

There is also the question of height. The site is on a flat plain, and highly visible from many areas of the city, especially the surrounding hills, and the parks and parkways adjoining the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. As such it risks becoming one of the major visual elements in the cityscape, competing with the Capitol and the monuments. The building should be lower, with a quieter profile.

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The suitability of the exterior materials was also questioned at the meeting. A determination would have to depend on the specifics of a revised design. We do agree with the architects that the overall color should be light rather than dark to avoid a heaviness to the design.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on August 23, and the one after that on September 27. In any event, we urge the architects to study the Commission's recommendations and present their ideas in rough sketch form. One of the more unfortunate aspects of this presentation was the degree to which the architects had gone toward a final design before discussing their ideas with the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Commander P. A. Goins
Head, Planning Department
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Chesapeake Division
Building 57, Washington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20390

EXHIBITION C

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

9 August, 1977

Dear Ms. Goley:

The Commission of Fine Arts enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you during its July 26, 1977 meeting. We unanimously approve the temporary installation of the piece by Seymour Lipton entitled Bed as part of your continuing sculpture display program. We commend you on your efforts to date and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Ms. Mary Anne Goley
Consultant, Fine Arts Program
Federal Reserve System
Washington, D.C. 20551

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

9 August, 1977

Dear Mr. Reiss:

I am sorry that you were unable to be with us during the Commission's July 26, 1977 review of revised designs for the East Entrance Garden of the Smithsonian Institution Building. Since the Commission unanimously disapproved the revised design, we feel that an opportunity to talk to you about it at some point would be appropriate. Unfortunately, the previous design as approved by the Commission had a certain integrity and quality compatible with the Mall and adjacent buildings which neither the proposed nor the existing landscape treatment has. Though the idea of modifying the original design to utilize more fully some of the existing elements may have its good points, we feel that it falls way short of being an adequate solution.

Our recommendation is that the scheme we approved in June be pursued as part of an overall landscape treatment plan for the Smithsonian Complex as a whole. We agree that the existing condition is unattractive and further recommend that all worn or inharmonious areas within your complex be studied as a unified whole. Ideally your study should utilize a model of the entire area around the Castle and the Arts and Indistries Building.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Phillip K. Reiss
Director, Office of Facilities
Planning & Engineering Services
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

EXHIBITION E

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS MAY 17, 1910

708 JACKSON PLACE, N.W.
WASHINGTON

9 August, 1977

Karel

Dear Mr. Yasko:

The Commission of Fine Arts approved designs for inscriptions in the courtyard of the J. Edgar Hoover Building during its July 26, 1977 meeting. Representatives of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI were present at the meeting and indicated their preference for a brief inscription in juxtaposition with a medallion depicting the head of J. Edgar Hoover. Our one suggestion, which was concurred with by the representatives present, was that the signature of J. Edgar Hoover be deleted from the plaque and used only in conjunction with the proposed inscribed quote.

We understand that the Society is also investigating sculptors for a piece to be located in the courtyard. The courtyard, which is not particularly inviting in its present state, could be improved considerably with the addition of suitable landscaping and a good piece of sculpture. We look forward to working with you and the Society on the designs.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Karel Yasko
Public Buildings Service
General Services Administration
Room 5333, 18th & F Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20405